

John Pappas has been engaged in high-level policy and political consulting in Washington, D.C., for the last 16 years. Prior to taking a full-time position as vice president of government affairs for the Poker Players Alliance (PPA) he was a public affairs consultant for the Washington PR firm Dittus Communications. During his four years at Dittus, Pappas served as a media and policy advisor for dozens of Fortune 500 companies, start-up firms, trade associations and grassroots organizations like the PPA.

Pappas cut his teeth in Washington politics straight out of college. He worked for nearly six years with his hometown congressman, John Shadegg from Arizona. Pappas handled policy issues for the congressman, including e-commerce and homeland security. He also served as the congressman's communications director and spokesperson, managing media strategy and press inquiries in Washington, D.C., and Arizona. In addition to his work on Capitol Hill, Pappas also worked on several congressional and state-wide political campaigns.

As PPA executive director, he is responsible for overall operations management, strategic initiatives, state and federal lobbying, membership communication and recruitment. He has traveled from coast to coast advocating for regulated poker in state capitols and in the United States Congress. He has testified before several state legislatures and the United States Senate. Pappas is a regular commentator for legal and legislative issues related to poker. He has appeared on FOX News, CNBC, MSNBC, CNN, FOX Business and numerous local news programs to discuss and debate Internet gaming policy. Pappas was recently named by Bluff Magazine as one of the most influential people in poker.